

most of the stations along the highway, Risse and Schwartz said. They want stations of the new millennium to be built on platforms over the highway that would also support stores, offices and housing—all of it rising into the sky over the roadway.

"While there is record ridership and we are doing a good job, it's like having a Class C basketball team beating all its opponents and saying that's good enough," Risse said. "But there's Class B and Class A and Class AA. There's no reason this transit system can't be Class AA."

FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF RED TAPE REDUCTION ACT

Mr. BOND. Mr. President, five years ago today the Congress, without dissent in the Senate, took a historic step in reigning in the federal government's regulatory machine and protecting the interest of small businesses. My Red Tape Reduction Act, what others call the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act, ensured that small businesses would be given a voice in the regulatory process at the time when it could make the most difference: before the regulation is published as a proposal.

This act provides a number of provisions that have proven to make the regulatory process more attentive to the impact on small businesses, and consequently more fair, more efficient and more effective. Perhaps the best known of these provisions is the requirement that OSHA and EPA convene panels to receive comments from small businesses before their regulations are proposed. This gives these agencies the unique opportunity to learn up front what the problems with their regulation may be, and to correct these problems when it will cause the least difficulty. This has resulted in significant changes being made, and in one case, EPA abandoning a regulation because they recognized that the industry could deal with the issue more effectively on their own.

Experience with this panel process had proven to be an unequivocal success. The former chief counsel for advocacy of the Small Business Administration stated that, "Unquestionably, the SBREFA panel process has had a very salutary impact on the regulatory deliberations of OSHA and EPA, resulting in major changes to draft regulations. What is important to note is that these changes were accomplished without sacrificing the agencies public policy objectives."

Another provision of the Red Tape Reduction Act that was just exercised, was the Congressional Review Act, which gave Congress the ability to invalidate those regulations determined to be truly egregious and beyond repair. Thankfully, we had this measure available as a last resort to dispose of the Clinton OSHA ergonomics regulation, which was a monument to regulatory excess and failure to appreciate the impact on small businesses.

Finally, one other provision of the Red Tape Reduction Act is just now being invoked. The Red Tape Reduction Act corrected the Regulatory Flexibility Act's lack of enforcement by giving interested parties the opportunity to bring a legal challenge when they believed that an agency is in non-compliance. Litigation is now moving through the courts that takes advantage of this provision and will hold agencies accountable for their actions.

While the Red Tape Reduction Act has been a resounding success, it is clear that more needs to be done. Too many agencies are still trying to evade the requirements to conduct regulatory flexibility analyses that will identify the small business impacts of their regulations. We now realize that the IRS should also be required to conduct small business review panels so that their regulations will impose the least amount of burden while still achieving the mission of the agency.

These and other issues shall be addressed in future legislation that I will introduce. For now, let us all appreciate and celebrate the benefits that the Red Tape Reduction Act brought to both the agencies and small businesses.

WORK OPPORTUNITY IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2001

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, it is with great pleasure that I join my colleague and friend, Senator JEFFORDS to introduce S. 626, the Work Opportunity Improvement Act of 2001. This legislation would permanently extend the Work Opportunity Tax Credit, WOTC, and the Welfare-to-Work, W-t-W, tax credit. The measure would also modify WOTC's eligibility criteria to help those receiving food stamps qualify for the credit.

Over the past 5 years these tax credits have played an integral part in helping a million and a half of America's working poor transition into the work force. WOTC was enacted in September of 1996, and W-t-W a year later, in order to provide employers with the financial resources they would need to recruit, hire, and retain individuals who have significant barriers to work. Traditionally, employers have been resistant to hiring those coming off the welfare rolls not only because they tended to be less educated and have little work place experience, but also because welfare dependency fosters self esteem problems which need to be surmounted. But these hiring tax incentives have clearly demonstrated that employers can be enticed to overcome their natural resistance to hiring less skilled, economically dependent individuals provided they are supplied adequate financial incentives. No other hiring tax incentive or training program has been nearly as successful as WOTC and W-t-W in encouraging employers to change their hiring practices.

A vibrant public-private partnership has developed over the past 5 years where-by government has provided the incentives and program administration support required to induce employers to participate. Employers have responded by changing their hiring practices. Many employers have established outreach and recruitment programs to target eligible individuals. States have made these programs more employer-friendly by continually improving the way they are administered. But time and again, we hear from both employers and the State job services, which administer the programs, that the continued uncertainty surrounding short-term extensions impedes expanded participation and improvements in program administration. A permanent extension would induce many of the employers now participating to expand their recruitment efforts and encourage the States to commit more time and effort to perfecting their administration of the program. This in turn would mean that even more individuals would be helped to transition from welfare dependency to work. Precisely because these programs have proven to be such successes over the past 5 years that we believe they should be made permanent.

In addition to making the WOTC and W-t-W programs permanent, our legislation would improve the WOTC program by increasing the age ceiling in the food stamp category from age 21 to age 51. This would greatly improve the job prospects for many absentee fathers and other vulnerable males who are less likely to qualify under other categories. Making absentee fathers eligible for the WOTC credits would provide employers with the incentive to hire them and in so doing provide them with the sense of personal responsibility and community involvement that are essential first steps to their assuming their responsibility as parents.

We urge our colleagues to join us in cosponsoring this important legislation to permanently extend the Work Opportunity Tax Credit and Welfare-to-Work tax credit programs.

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Wednesday, March 28, 2001, the Federal debt stood at \$5,734,570,704,080.99, Five trillion, seven hundred thirty-four billion, five hundred seventy million, seven hundred four thousand, eighty dollars and ninety-nine cents.

One year ago, March 28, 2000, the Federal debt stood at \$5,733,742,000,000, Five trillion, seven hundred thirty-three billion, seven hundred forty-two million.

Five years ago, March 28, 1996, the Federal debt stood at \$5,071,792,000,000, Five trillion, seventy-one billion, seven hundred ninety-two million.

Ten years ago, March 28, 1991, the Federal debt stood at \$3,460,371,000,000. Three trillion, four hundred sixty billion, three hundred seventy-one million.

Fifteen years ago, March 28, 1986, the Federal debt stood at \$1,981,783,000,000. One trillion, nine hundred eighty-one billion, seven hundred eighty-three million, which reflects a debt increase of almost \$4 trillion, \$3,752,787,704,080.99. Three trillion, seven hundred fifty-two billion, seven hundred eighty-seven million, seven hundred four thousand, eighty dollars and ninety-nine cents, during the past 15 years.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

PURDUE UNIVERSITY AND UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME WOMEN'S BASKETBALL TEAMS

• Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, two years ago I rose to commend Purdue University's women's basketball team for winning the 1999 National Collegiate Athletic Association basketball championship. Today I again rise to honor the Lady Boilermakers for again making a trip to the NCAA Final Four. And this year, I also want to honor the women's basketball team of the University of Notre Dame as Indiana is exceptionally proud to have not one, but two women's basketball teams reaching the 2001 NCAA Final Four.

Notre Dame last represented Indiana in the women's NCAA Final Four in 1997. This year the Notre Dame women have achieved an exceptional sixth consecutive tournament appearance and eighth overall tournament appearance under Head Coach Muffet McGraw. Coach McGraw and All-American, Big East Player of the Year Ruth Riley have led the team to an outstanding 32-2 record, a school high for victories in one season.

Purdue's women have persevered through adversity to achieve success as they suffered the loss of team member Tiffany Young in a 1999 traffic accident. Team members experienced other personal losses and serious injuries, yet with skill and determination they have become the first team to reach the Final Four under three coaches: Lin Dunn in 1994, Carolyn Peck in 1999, and now current Coach Kristy Curry. Coach Curry, Big Ten Player of the Year Katie Douglas, and the rest of the Lady Boilermakers hold an impressive 30-6 record.

We celebrate the dedication of these women, their victories, and the tradition of sportsmanship and excellence present throughout Indiana. We send these two teams our best wishes as they proceed to their respective semifinal games. •

IN MEMORY OF ROWLAND EVANS

• Mr. HOLLINGS. Mr. President, the best example of the free press was Rowland Evans and the best brief on this outstanding journalist was from his partner, Robert D. Novak, in the Washington Post, Thursday, March 29. I ask consent that the brief be included in the RECORD for his friends that knew him and for the millions more that were informed by his writing.

The brief follows:

[From the Washington Post, Mar. 29, 2001]

ROWLAND EVANS, REPORTER

(By Robert D. Novak)

On Monday morning, Dec. 17, 1962, I returned from my honeymoon and found multiple phone messages from Rowly Evans on my desk in the Wall Street Journal's Washington bureau. Evans, a reporter for the New York Herald-Tribune, asked me at a subsequent lunch to collaborate with him in a daily newspaper column.

The goal was a product short on ideology, long on reporting. Our column first appeared on May 15, 1963, and ran in this space under our double byline until Evans retired from the column 30 years later. Over the years, I fear, we became more ideological. But we promised ourselves that every column would contain some information, major or minuscule, never previously reported.

We kept that promise, thanks to Evan's energies. Several obituaries noting the death of Rowland Evans from cancer on March 23 described him as a conservative. More appropriately, he should be remembered as a reporter and a patriot.

His model was the column written by the Alsop brothers—Joseph and Stewart—who combined dogged reporting with a passion for the security of the United States. Like Joe Alsop, Evans belonged to the Washington of black-tie dinner parties, still flourishing when our column began.

Rowly snagged stories on the Georgetown party circuit, including an exclusive on U.S. plans for an electronic wall to protect south Vietnam. But he relied mostly on old-fashioned reporting, featuring relentless interrogation of sources. Senators, Cabinet members and anonymous staffers lured to lunch or breakfast at the Metropolitan Club found themselves facing a questioner who insisted on answers. He traveled everywhere for stories, covering the Vietnam, Six-Day and Gulf wars, often at great physical risk.

Readers who thought they could spot the principal author of our columns would be surprised to learn that I was not responsible for "Reassessing Goldwater," published on April 9, 1964. Since at that time I had close contact with Sen. Barry Goldwater, it was assumed that I had written the column disputing the conventional wisdom that Mr. Conservative was dead for the Republican presidential nomination. After much shoeleather reporting, Evans came to the conclusion that Goldwater quite likely would be the nominee.

He flourished when reporting on national security, using a melange of sources both prominent and shadowy. He was ahead of everybody in forecasting the breakdown of Soviet satellite rule in Poland and Czechoslovakia. In 1979, one Evans column after another exposed Soviet cheating on arms control agreements that U.S. officials tried to ignore. Evans considered that work the high point of his long career.

Nothing he did ever caused more trouble than his tough reporting on Israeli intransigence.

Evans was not anti-Israel and certainly not antisemitic. He went to Lebanon in 1982 to cover an Israeli invasion of Lebanon that he deployed. But he found Palestinian atrocities in Sidon, Lebanon, that suggested "the PLO has become permeated by thugs and adventurers." Although the late Yitzhak Rabin was his friend, he did not feel that the United States should be tied to the decisions of the Israeli government.

Our column encountered the most criticism when he investigated, years after the event, the Israeli attack that sank the U.S. Navy communications intelligence ship Liberty during the Six-Day War. It was not anti-Israeli bias that caused Evans to probe an incident that both governments wanted to hide. Rather, it was outrage—born of patriotic fervor—over the needless death of 34 U.S. Naval personnel that he laid at the feet of Israeli defense forces.

That same outrage had led Evans as a Yale freshman on Dec. 8, 1941, to protest the Japanese bombing of Pearl Harbor by enlisting in the Marine Corps, taking him to combat on Guadalcanal.

American security was his guiding star. It led him to support U.S. efforts to save Vietnam from communist oppression, though that stance eventually put him in opposition to his friend Robert F. Kennedy. It led him away from his family's ties with Democrats and toward the Reagan Revolution.

He was the life of every party he attended. But behind the charm of a Philadelphia society boy was a tough Marine who loved his country and never wavered in seeking the truth. •

BRYANNA HOCKING WINS MITCHELL SCHOLARSHIP

• Mr. SMITH of Oregon. Mr. President, I am delighted to congratulate an Oregon citizen and former intern in my office, Bryanna Hocking, of Eugene, OR, on her selection as a recipient of a George J. Mitchell Scholarship to study in Ireland beginning in the fall.

This competitive, national scholarship enables American university graduates to pursue a year of study at institutions of higher learning in Ireland and Northern Ireland. These scholarships are awarded to individuals between the ages of 18 and 30 who have shown academic distinction, commitment to service, and potential for leadership.

Bryanna will be an excellent student ambassador to Ireland. In May 2000, she received a Bachelor of Science in Foreign Service from Georgetown University's Walsh School of Foreign Service. An active member of her community, she was founder and co-chair of the Georgetown Women's Guild, which organized forums and discussions at the University on women's issues and served on the executive board of the Georgetown College Republicans.

Bryanna is an aspiring journalist, an ambition sparked by her concerns about how the media dealt with the Balkans, Rwanda, and other areas where ethnic strife led to genocide. Bryanna hopes that she can combine her passion for journalism and international affairs in a career in which